862.1896 D2

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: C. Rapp
NOBUAKI OGUSHI, et al.	)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2121
Application. No.: Unassigned	)	
(Divisional of 08/902,160	:	
Filed July 29, 1997)	)	
	:	
Filed: November 20, 2001	)	
	:	
For: REMOTE MAINTENANCE SYSTEM	)	November 20, 2001

The Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 1, line 7 insert the following paragraph:

--This is a divisional application of Application No. 08/902,160, filed July 29, 1997.--

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 1, line 10 and ending at line 18 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--Maintenance against a trouble in an industrial equipment requiring maintenance, such as a semiconductor device manufacturing apparatus has been made such that, upon occurrence of a trouble, maintenance personnel instruct a countermeasure to an operator for the manufacturing apparatus through telephone or facsimile communication or directly visit a factory where the manufacturing apparatus is installed. This also applies to periodical maintenance.--

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 2, line 24 and ending page 3, line 12, with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--Another aspect is attained by providing a monitor apparatus arranged on an industrial equipment side to constitute a remote maintenance system for maintaining an industrial equipment installed at a remote location, comprising, obtaining means for detecting occurrence of a trouble of one or a plurality of industrial equipments and obtaining status information representing a state of the trouble, and communication means for notifying, through the internet, a management apparatus for performing centralized maintenance management of the industrial equipment of status information obtained by the obtaining means, and for receiving response information sent from the management apparatus through the internet in response to notification of the status information.--

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 13, line 2 and ending at line 5 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--If, however, a countermeasure is required (i.e., "YES" in step S402), the person in charge selects an appropriate countermeasure by looking up the information stored in the trouble database (step S403).--

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 17, line 5 and ending at line 20, with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached

--Fig. 7 is a conceptual view of an industrial equipment maintenance system according to the second embodiment of the present invention. In the first embodiment, the plurality of user factories each having the industrial equipment are connected to the management system for the vendor for the industrial equipment through a communicating means, and the maintenance information of the industrial equipment of each factory is communicated through the communicating means. However, in the second embodiment, a factory having industrial equipments of a plurality of vendors is connected to the management systems of the vendors for the plurality of industrial equipments through a communicating means using the internet, thereby communicating maintenance information of each industrial equipment through the communicating means.--

REMARKS

This is a divisional application of Application No. 08/902,160 which was filed on July 29, 1997.

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 16, 18, 21 and 28

being independent.

The specification has been amended to set forth the continuing lineage data for the present application and to improve its form, consistent with changes made in the parent application. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

Consideration and an early allowance are respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO SPECIFICATION

At page 1, line 7 the following paragraph was inserted:

--This is a divisional application of Application No. 09/294,333, filed April 20, 1999.--.

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 1, line 10 and ending at line 18 with the following replacement paragraph.

--Maintenance against a trouble in an industrial equipment requiring maintenance, such as a semiconductor device manufacturing apparatus has been made such that, upon occurrence of a trouble, maintenance personnel instruct a countermeasure to an operator for the manufacturing apparatus through telephone or facsimile communication or directly visit a factory where the manufacturing apparatus is installed. This also applies to periodical maintenance.--

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 2, line 24 and ending page 3, line 12, with the following replacement paragraph.

–[According to another] Another aspect is attained by providing a monitor apparatus arranged on an industrial equipment side to constitute a remote maintenance system for maintaining an industrial equipment installed at a remote location, comprising, obtaining means

for detecting occurrence of a trouble of one or a plurality of industrial equipments and obtaining status information representing a state of the trouble, and communication means for notifying, through the internet, a management apparatus for performing centralized maintenance management of the industrial equipment of status information obtained by the obtaining means, and for receiving response information sent from the management apparatus through the internet in response to notification of the status information.--

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 13, line 2 and ending at line 5 with the following replacement paragraph.

--If, however, a countermeasure is required (i.e., ["NO"] "YES" in step S402), the person in charge selects an appropriate countermeasure by looking up the information stored in the trouble database (step S403).--

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 17, line 5 and ending at line 20, with the following replacement paragraph

--Fig. 7 is a conceptual view of an industrial equipment maintenance system according to the second embodiment of the present invention. In the first embodiment, the plurality of user factories each having the industrial equipment are connected to the management system for the vendor for the industrial equipment through a communicating means, and the maintenance information of the industrial equipment of each factory is communicated through the communicating means. However, in the second embodiment, a [factor] factory having industrial equipments of a plurality of vendors is connected to the management systems of the

vendors for the plurality of industrial equipments through a communicating means using the internet, thereby communicating maintenance information of each industrial equipment through the communicating means.--